GRETCHANINOFF

CHILDREN'S BOOK OPUS 98 FOR THE PIANO

Willard A. Palmer, Editor

Alfred

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CHILDREN'S BOOK, Opus 98

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ABOUT THIS EDITION

"In the field of Children's Music, Gretchaninoff has created a number of genuine masterpieces which prove to be truly loving penetrations into the peculiar world of Children. In these works the composer enters into this world, not as an outside observer, but by becoming a child himself. Their enormous popularity, and the exceptional pleasure which the little musicians derive from performing these compositions, offer the best proof that Gretchaninoff has succeeded in solving brilliantly the most difficult problem of 'children's musical literature' without either the insincerity or the condescension of the usual 'children's composer'."

The above quotation from Sabaneyeff's book *Modern Russian Composers* summarizes some of the important reasons for the great success of Gretchaninoff's music for children.

Alexander Gretchaninoff was born in Moscow in 1864, and died in New York in 1956. He spent the last 16 years of his life in the United States, and became an American Citizen. His teachers included Arensky and Rimsky-Korsakoff. He composed a number of successful operas and symphonic works. He became particularly noted for his compositions for children and for his church music and vocal works.

His *CHILDREN'S BOOK, Opus 98, for the piano,* is a collection of 15 musical miniatures. Each of these is an effective recital piece. Because the selections are quite brief, the young student can easily master several of them and perform them as a suite. This sort of performing experience is extremely valuable to the young musician.

The present edition restores the original titles (in accurate translations) to these selections. Gretchaninoff understood that children do not always care for childish titles. In this edition, the text of the original Russian edition and added fingering appears in heavy print. Editorial suggestions are in lighter print. The music has been newly engraved and openly spaced for easier reading.

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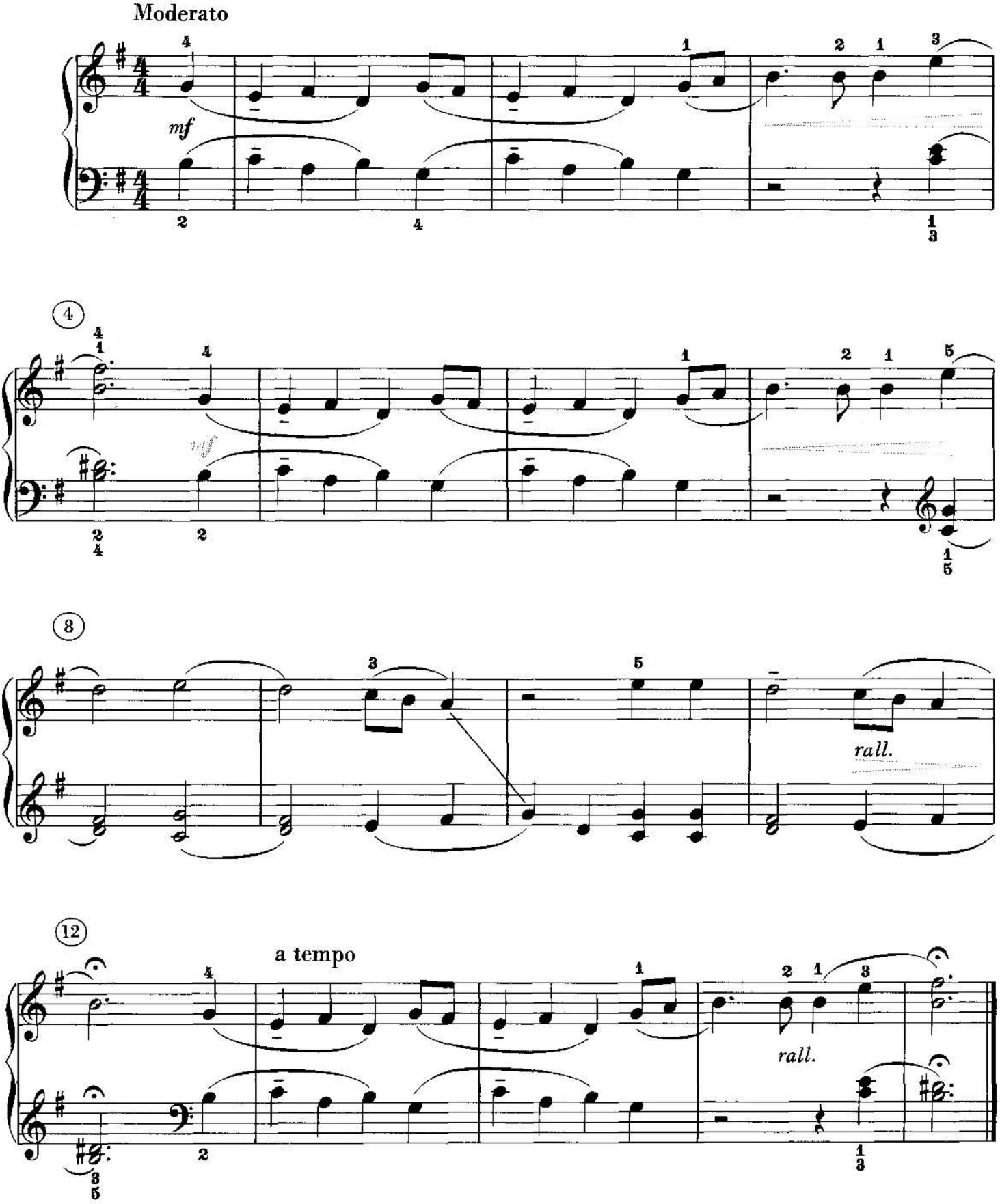
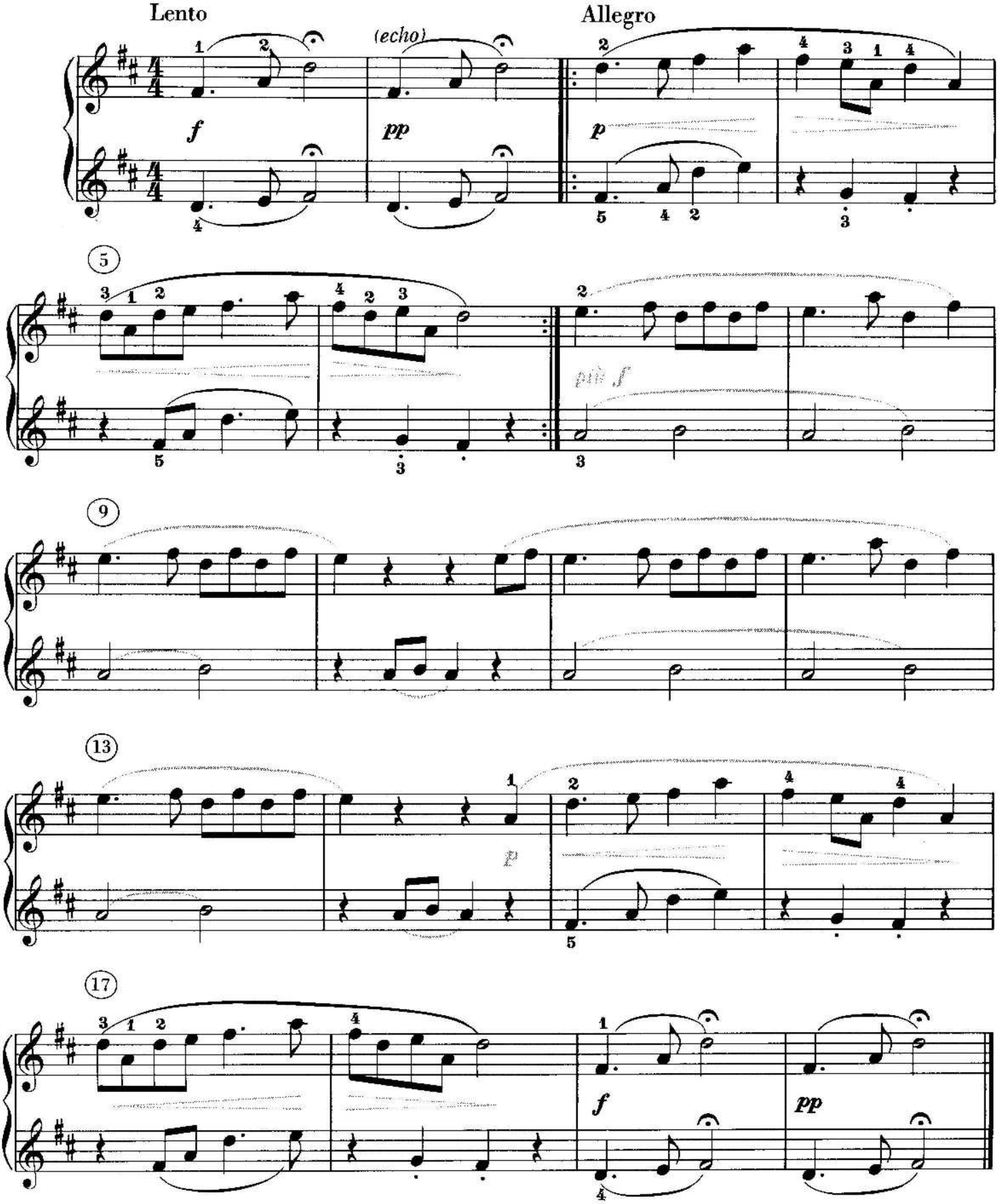
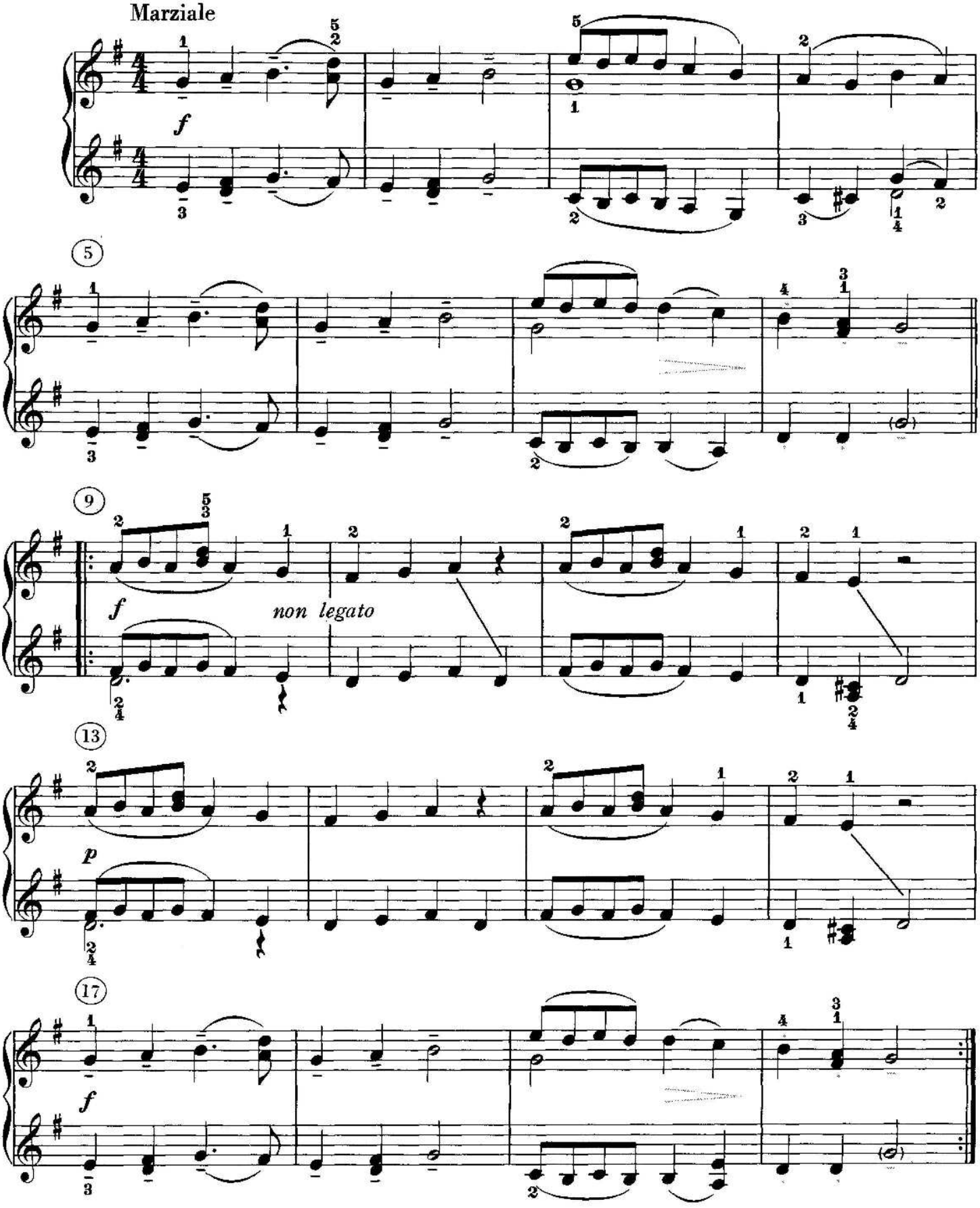
1. A Tale



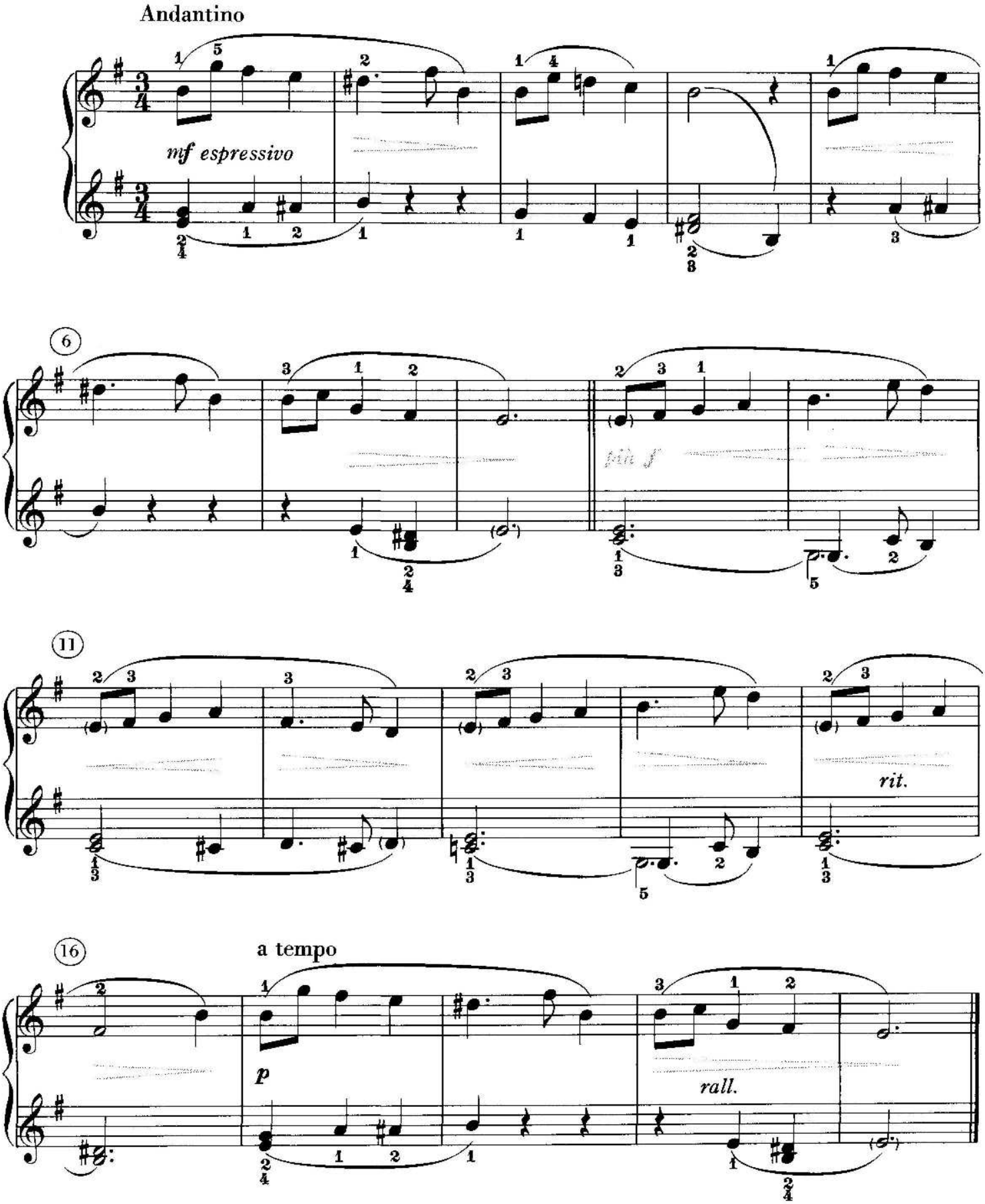
2. In Camp



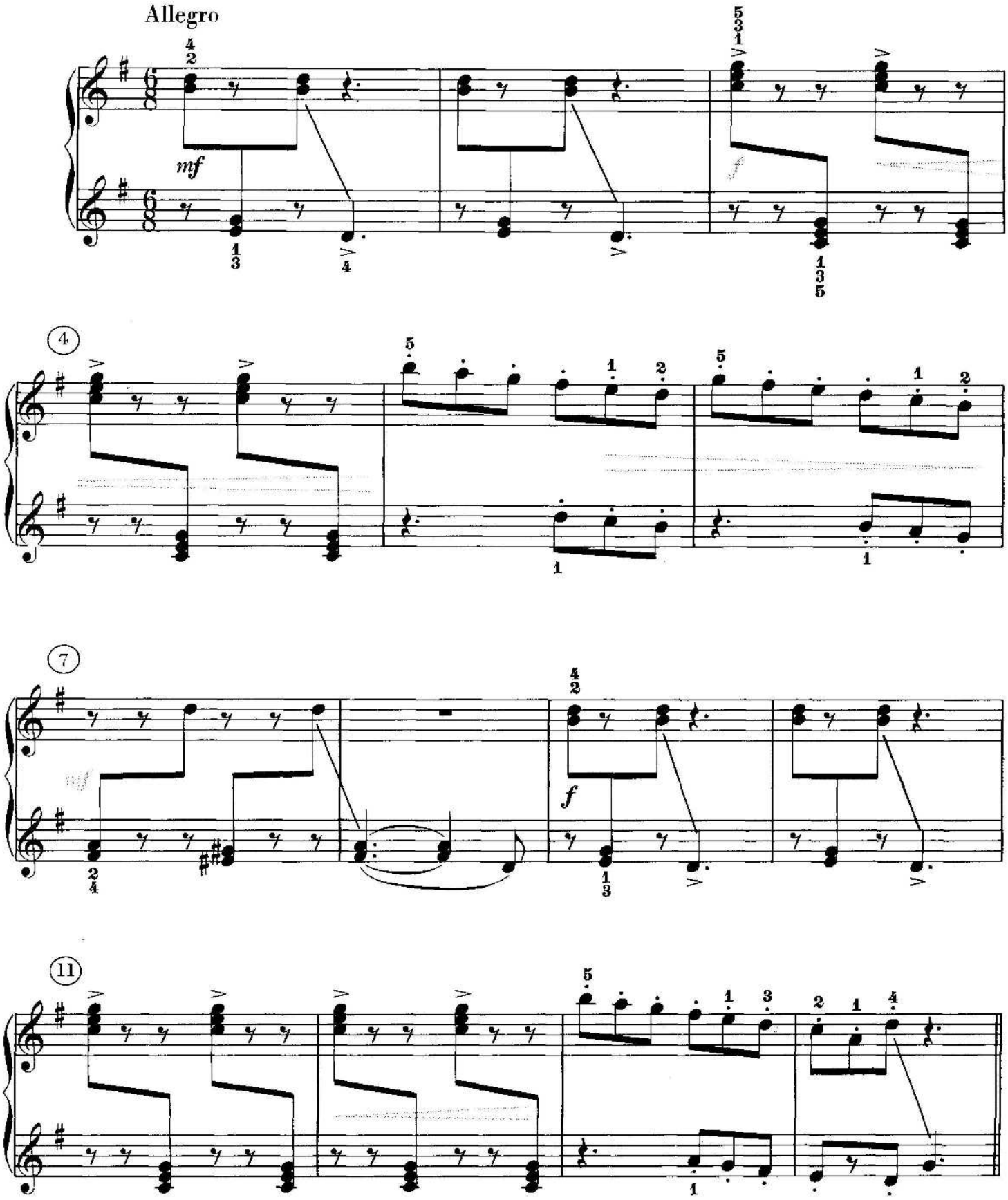
3. March

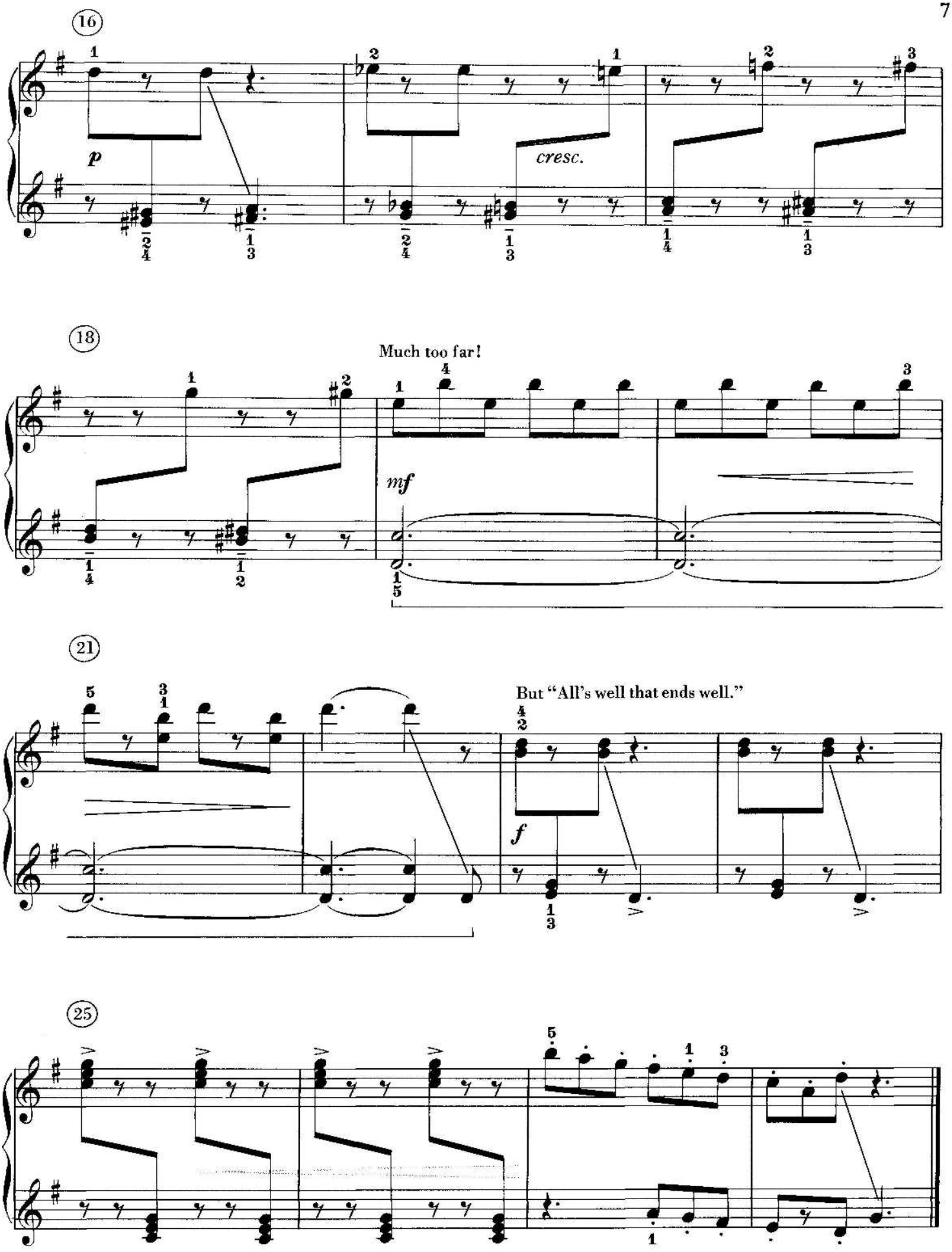


4. Farewell

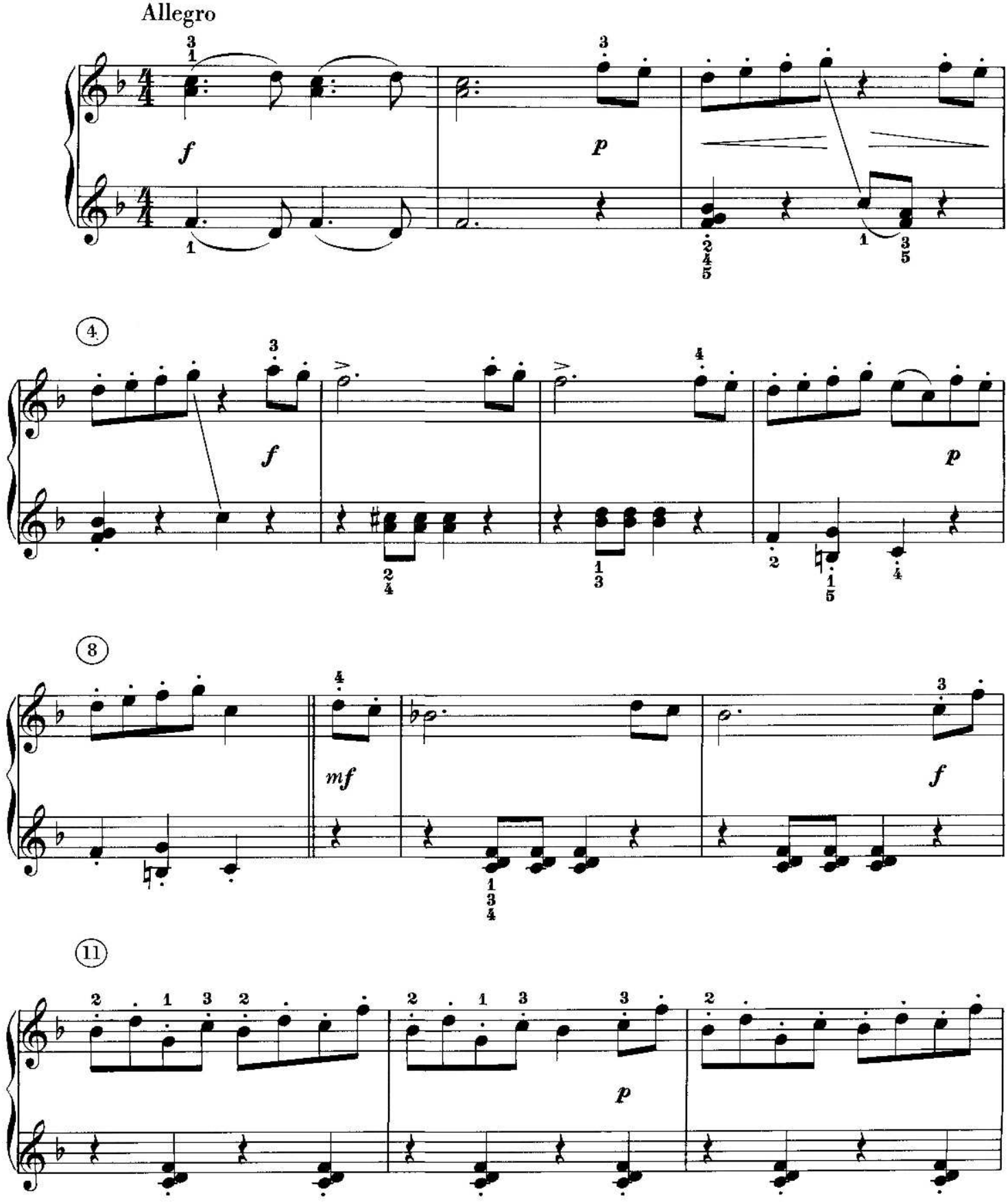


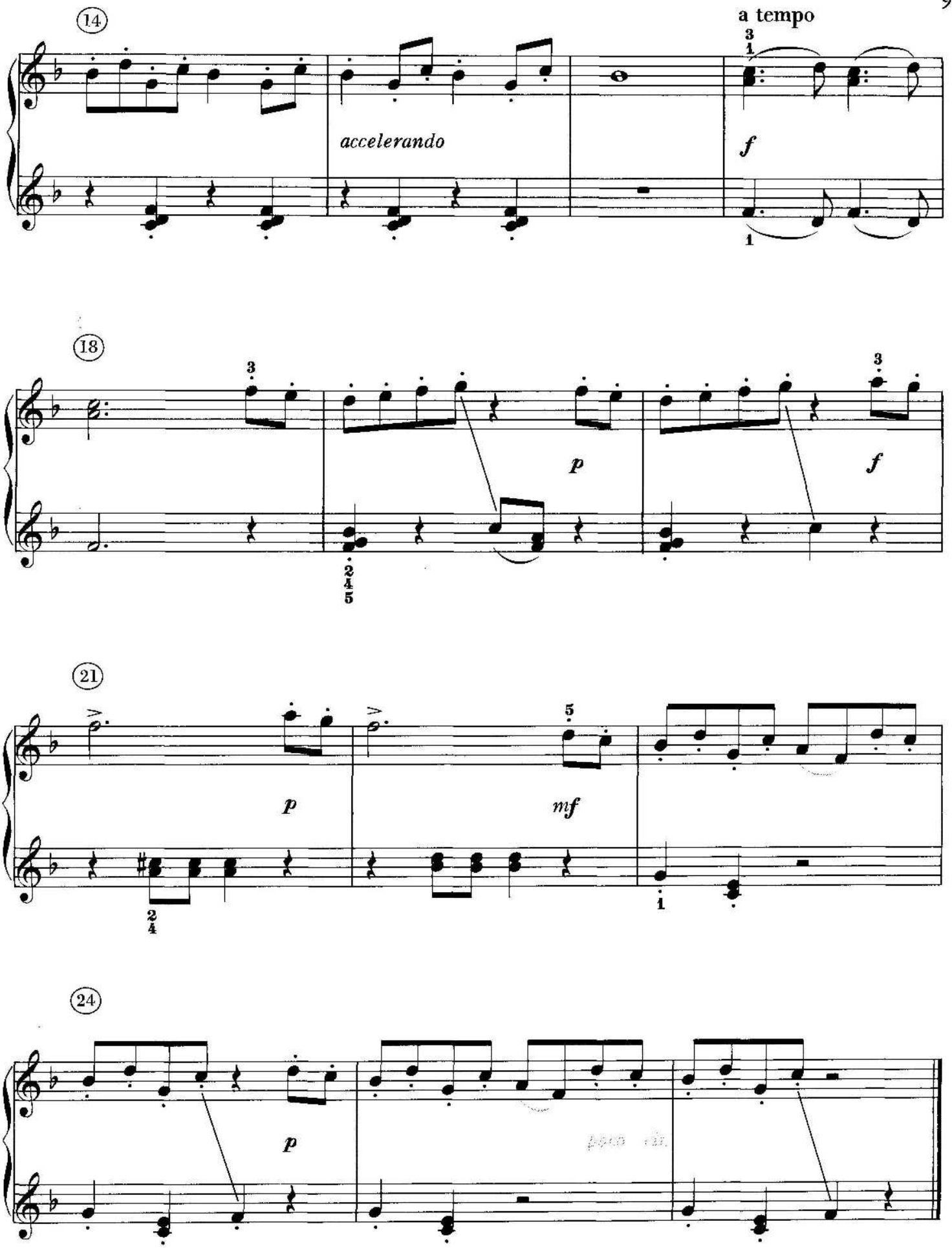
5. Horse and Rider



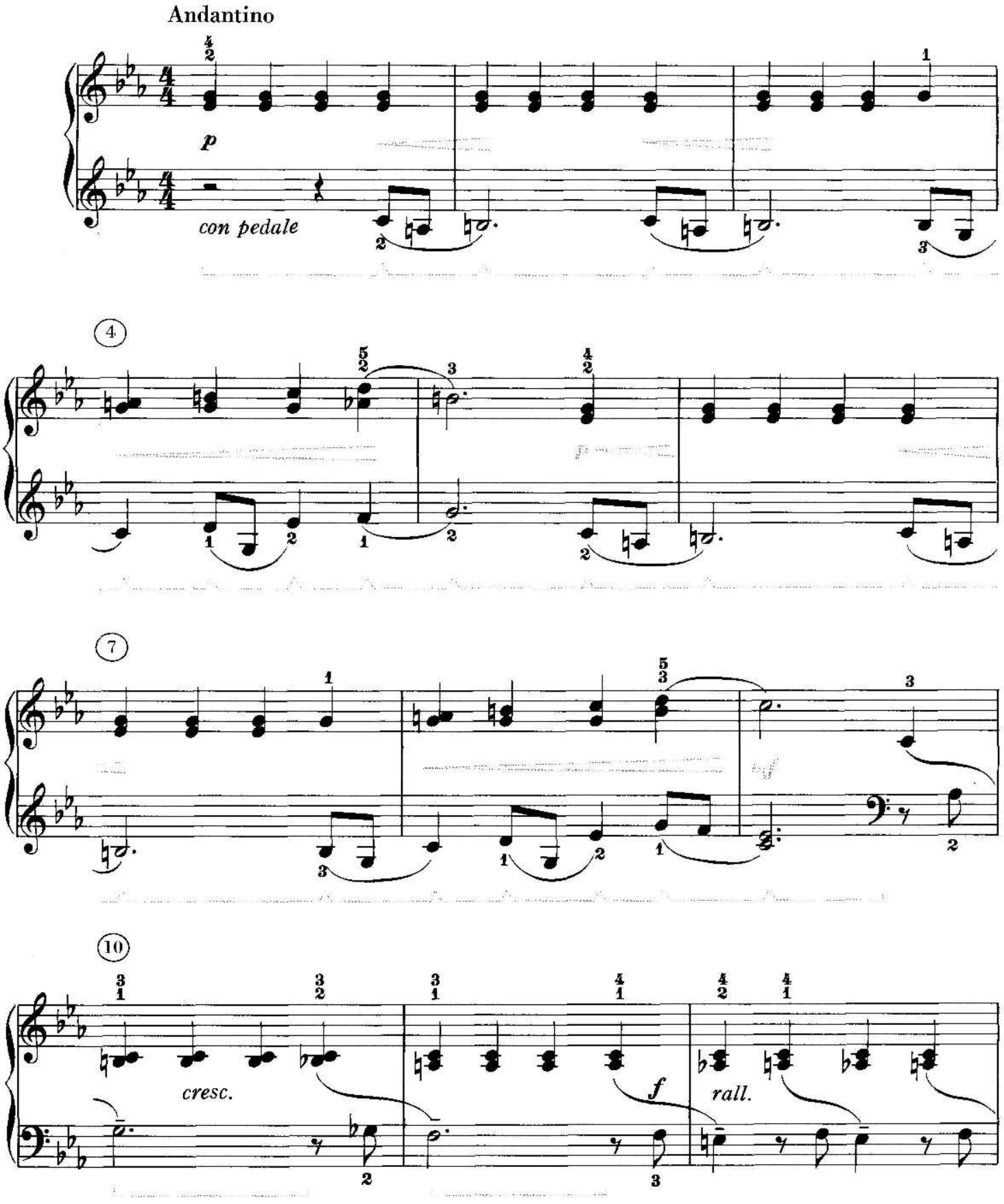

16
p
cresc.
18
Much too far!
mf
21
But "All's well that ends well."
f
25

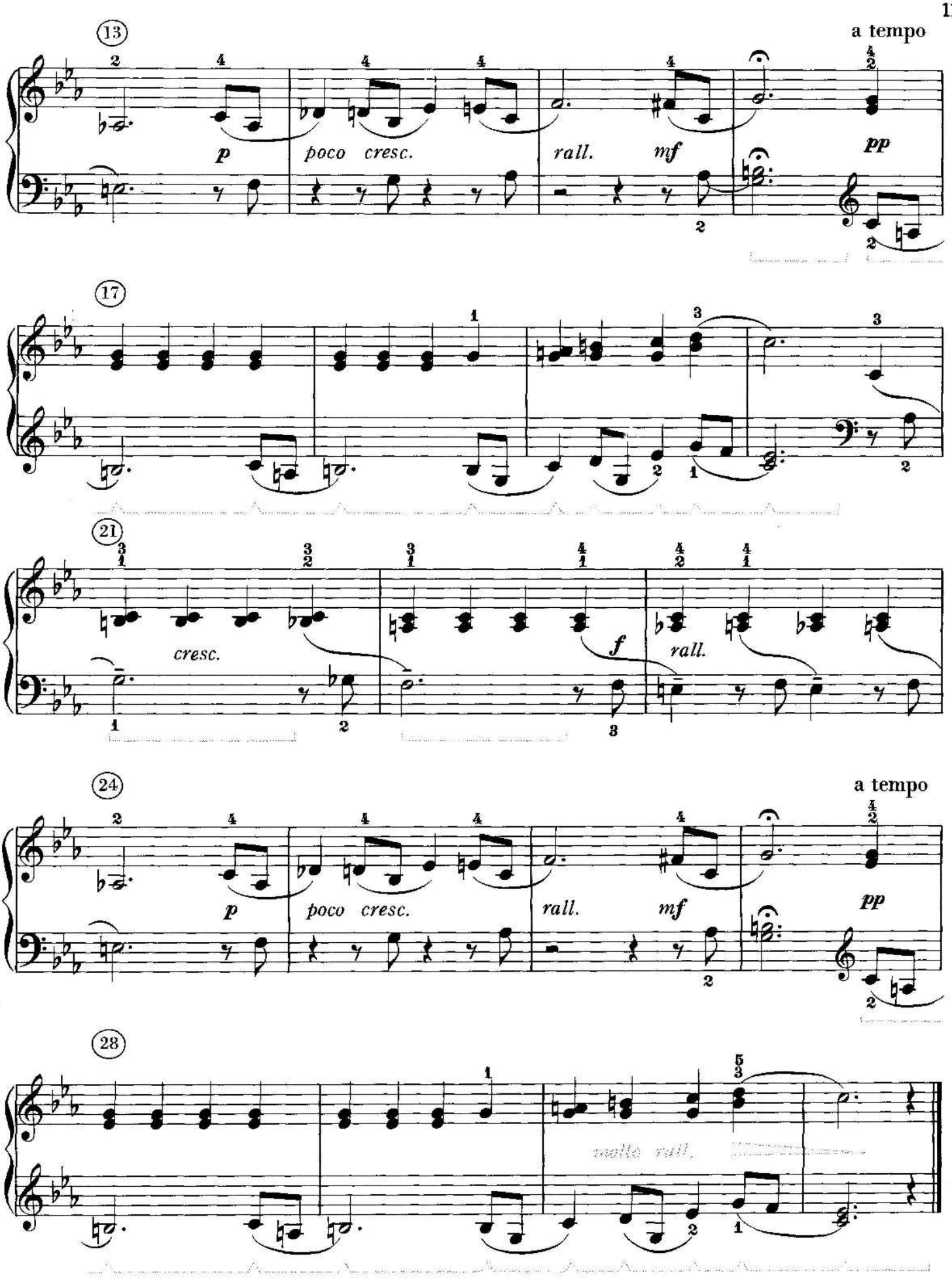
6. In a Woodland Glade



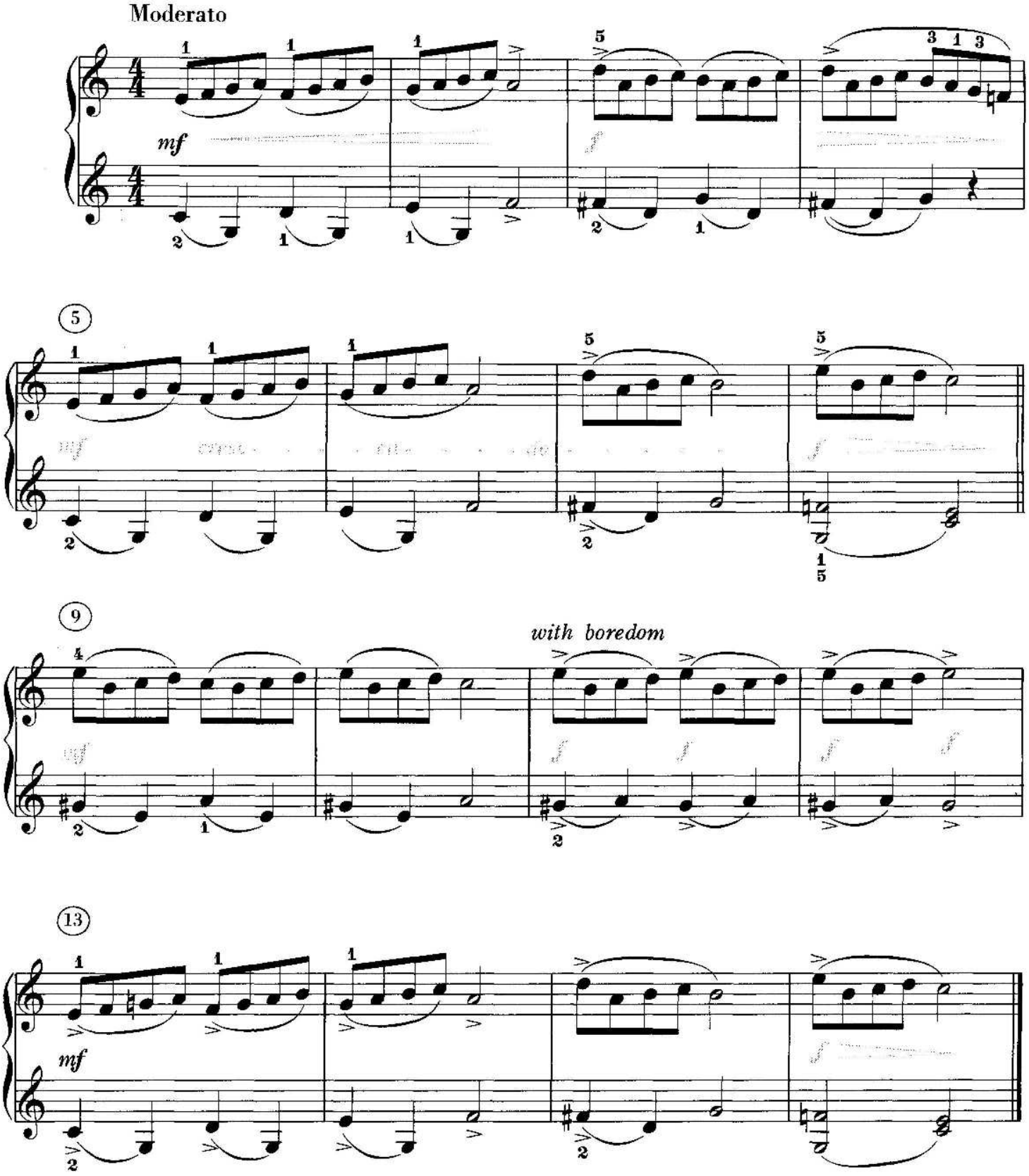

14
a tempo
accelerando
f
18
p
f
21
p
mf
24
p

7. Discontent



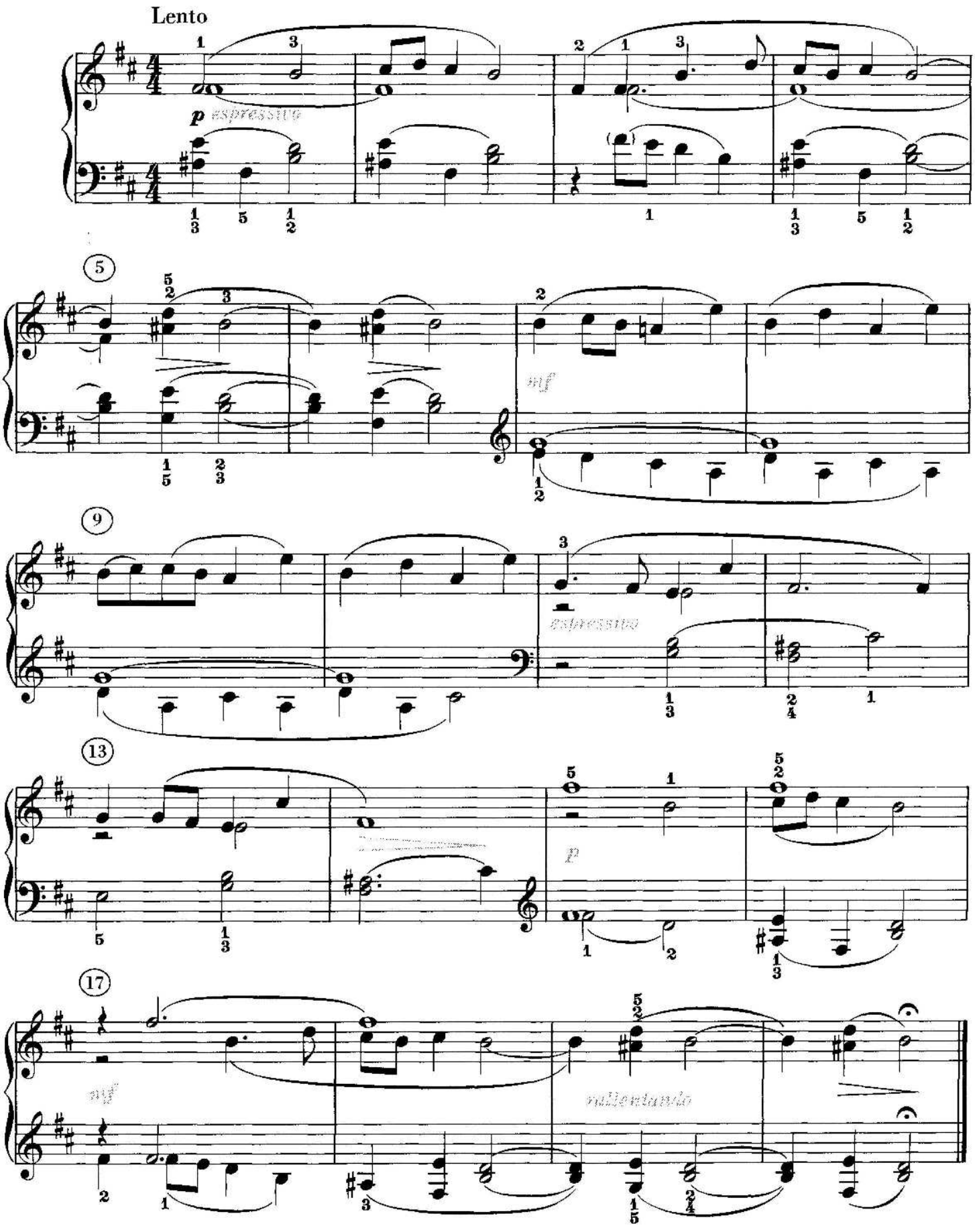

13
a tempo
p
poco cresc.
rall.
mf
pp
17
21
cresc.
f
rall.
24
a tempo
p
poco cresc.
rall.
mf
pp
28
molto rall.

8. A Tiresome Tale

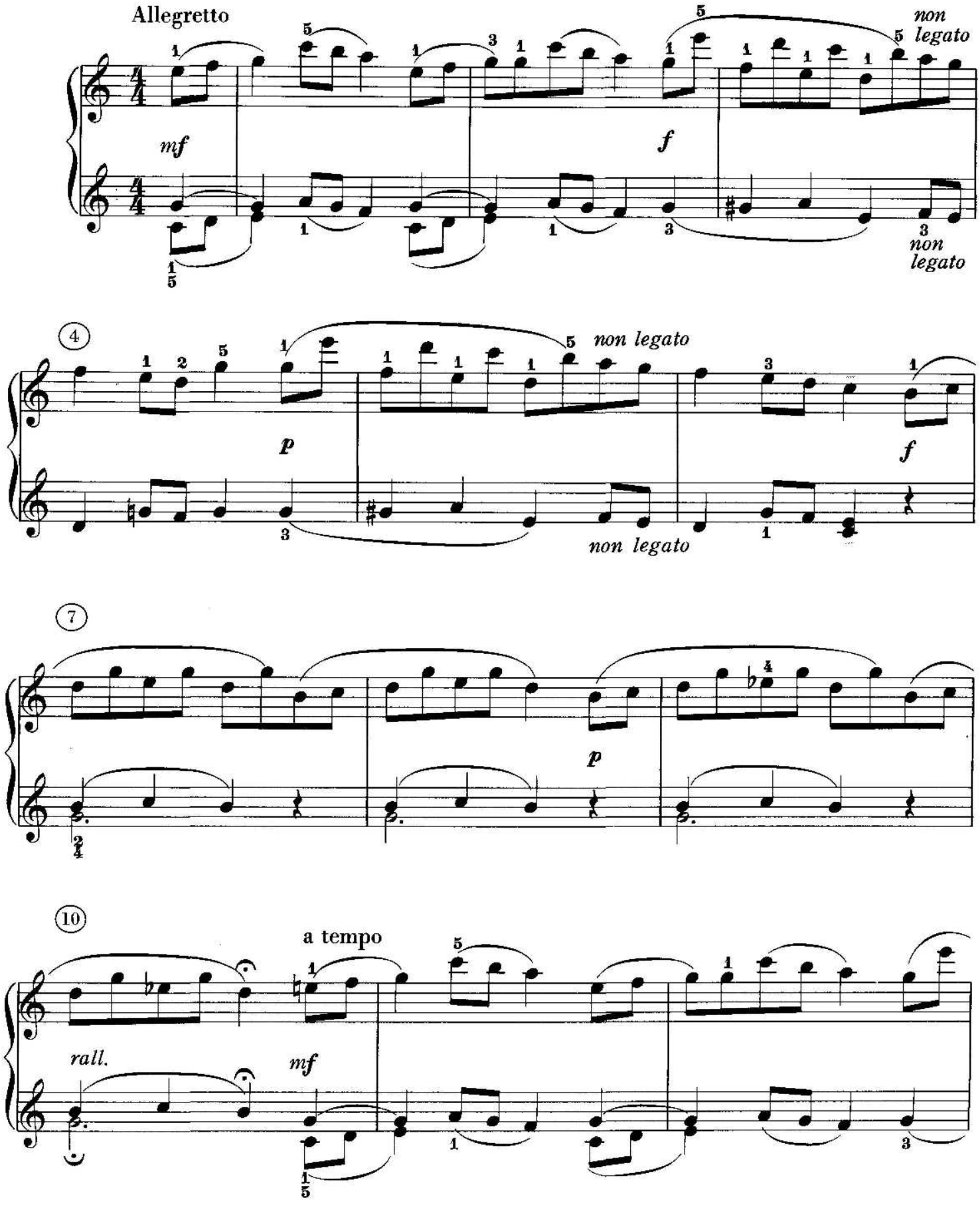


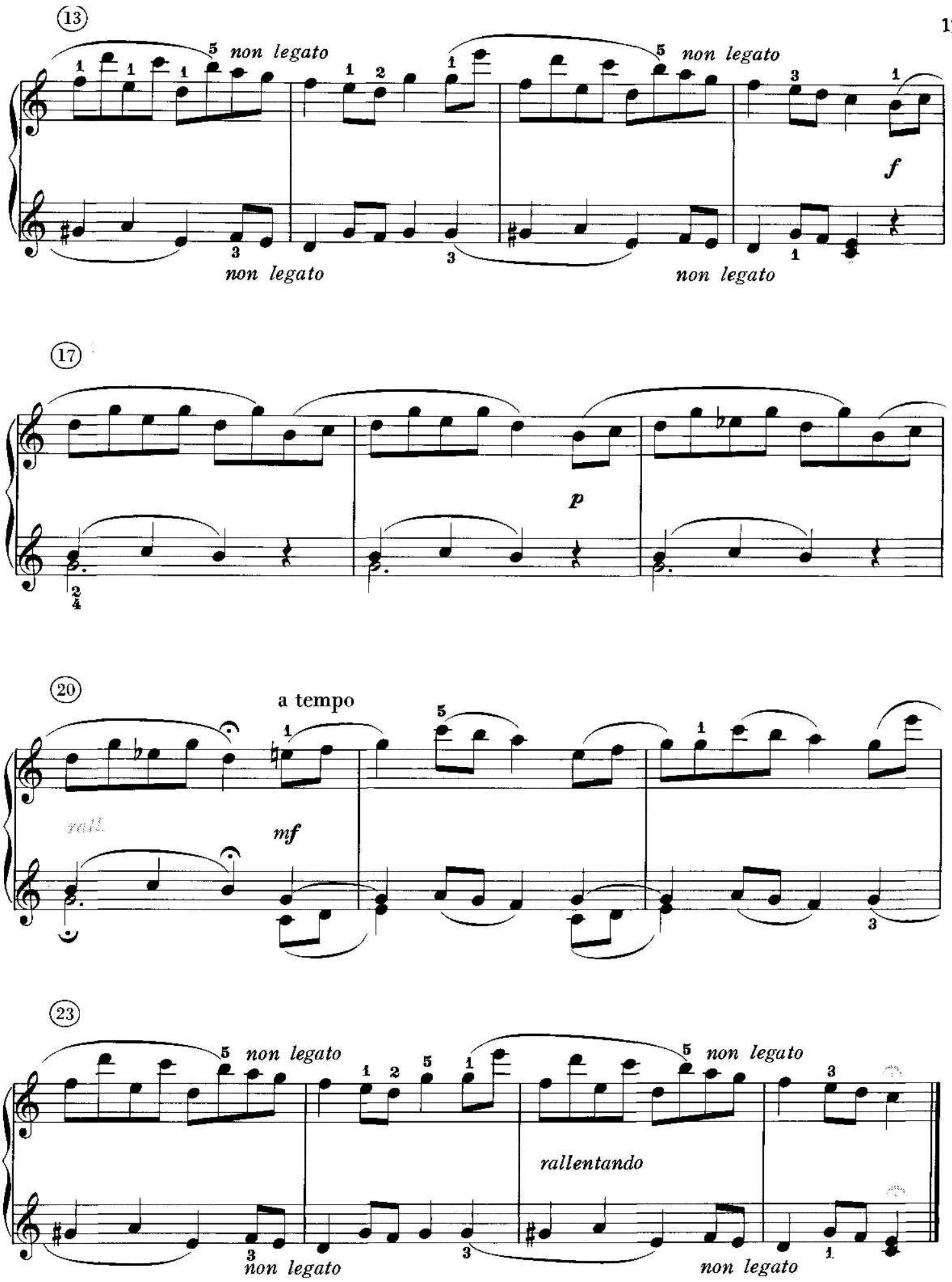
In spite of its title, this selection is an entertaining recital piece. By over-emphasizing the accents in the last six measures, the performer conveys the idea of the plodding plot of the "Tiresome Tale" in a most amusing manner.

9. Lullaby

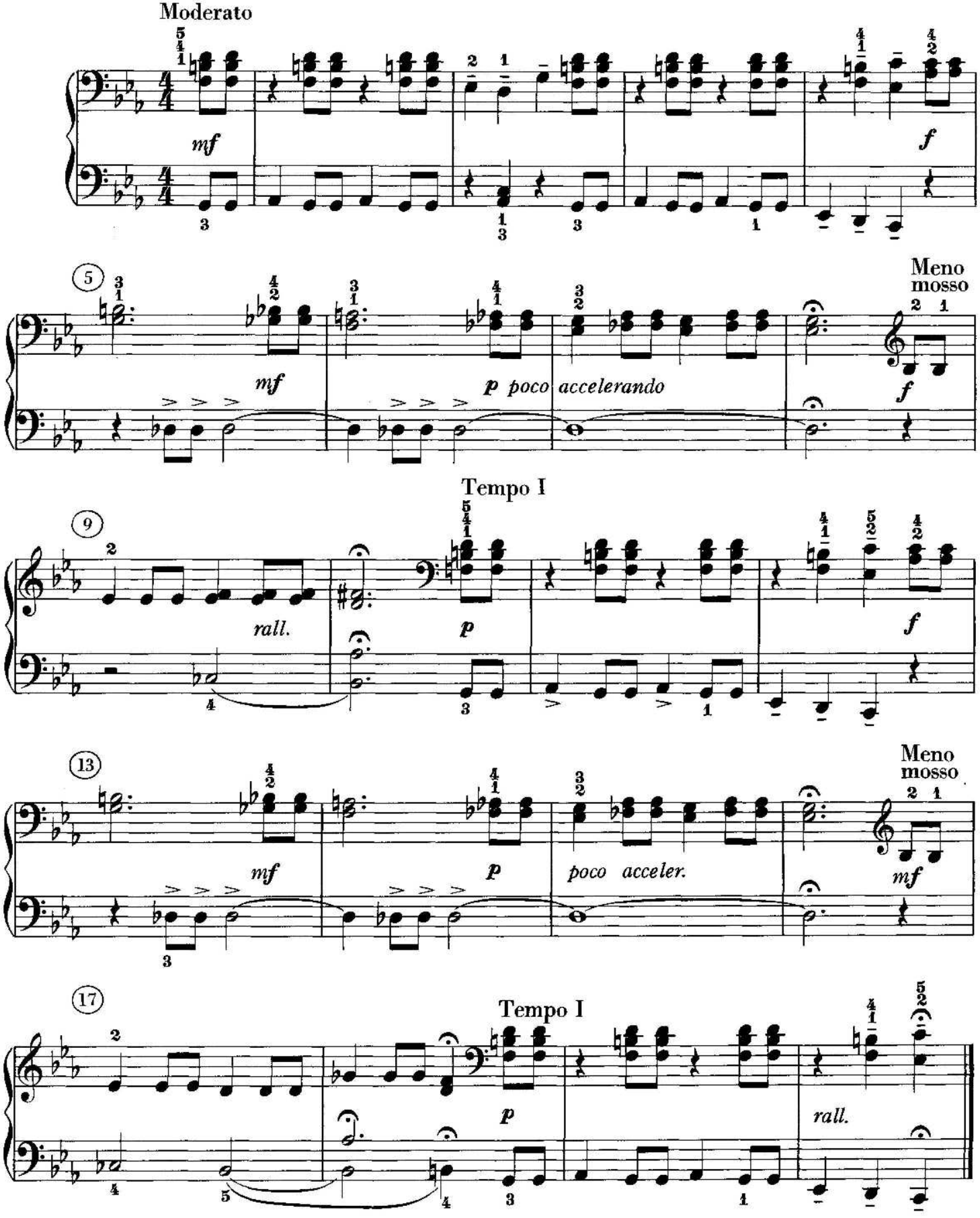


10. Dance

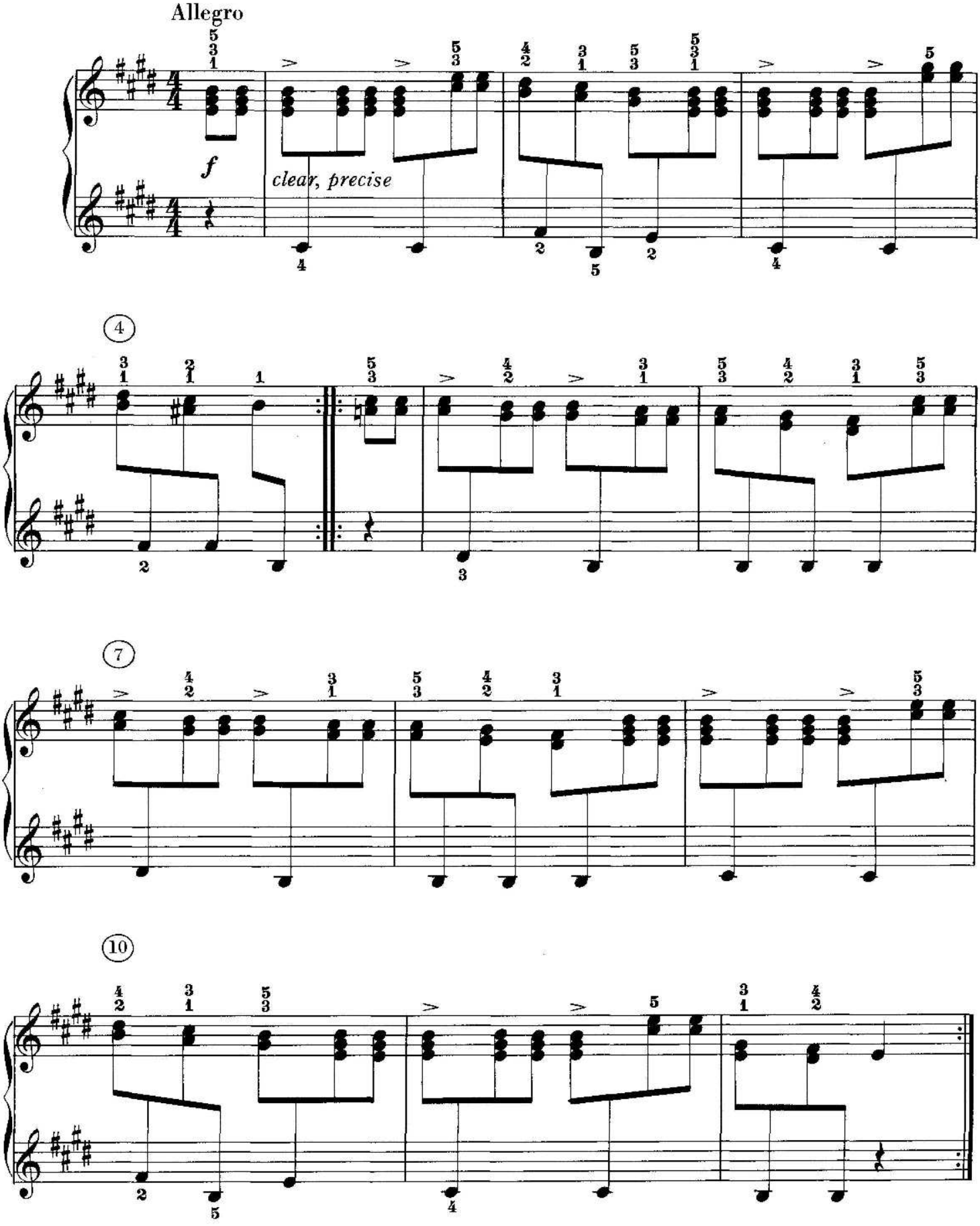

Allegretto
mf
f
non legato
non legato
4
p
non legato
non legato
f
7
p
10
a tempo
rall.
mf


13
non legato
non legato
non legato
non legato
f
17
p
20
a tempo
mf
23
non legato
non legato
rallentando
non legato
non legato

11. Terrible Tale

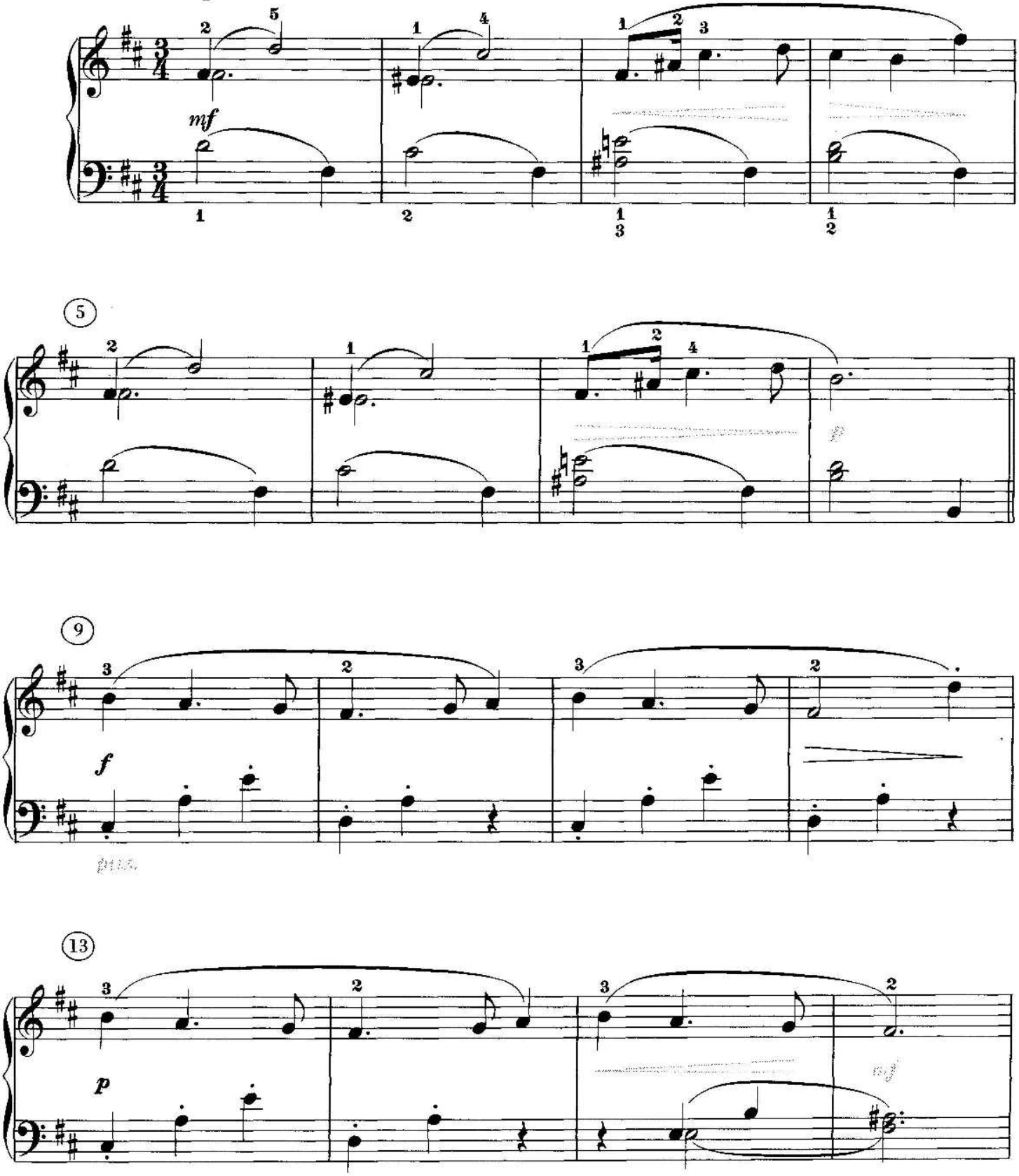


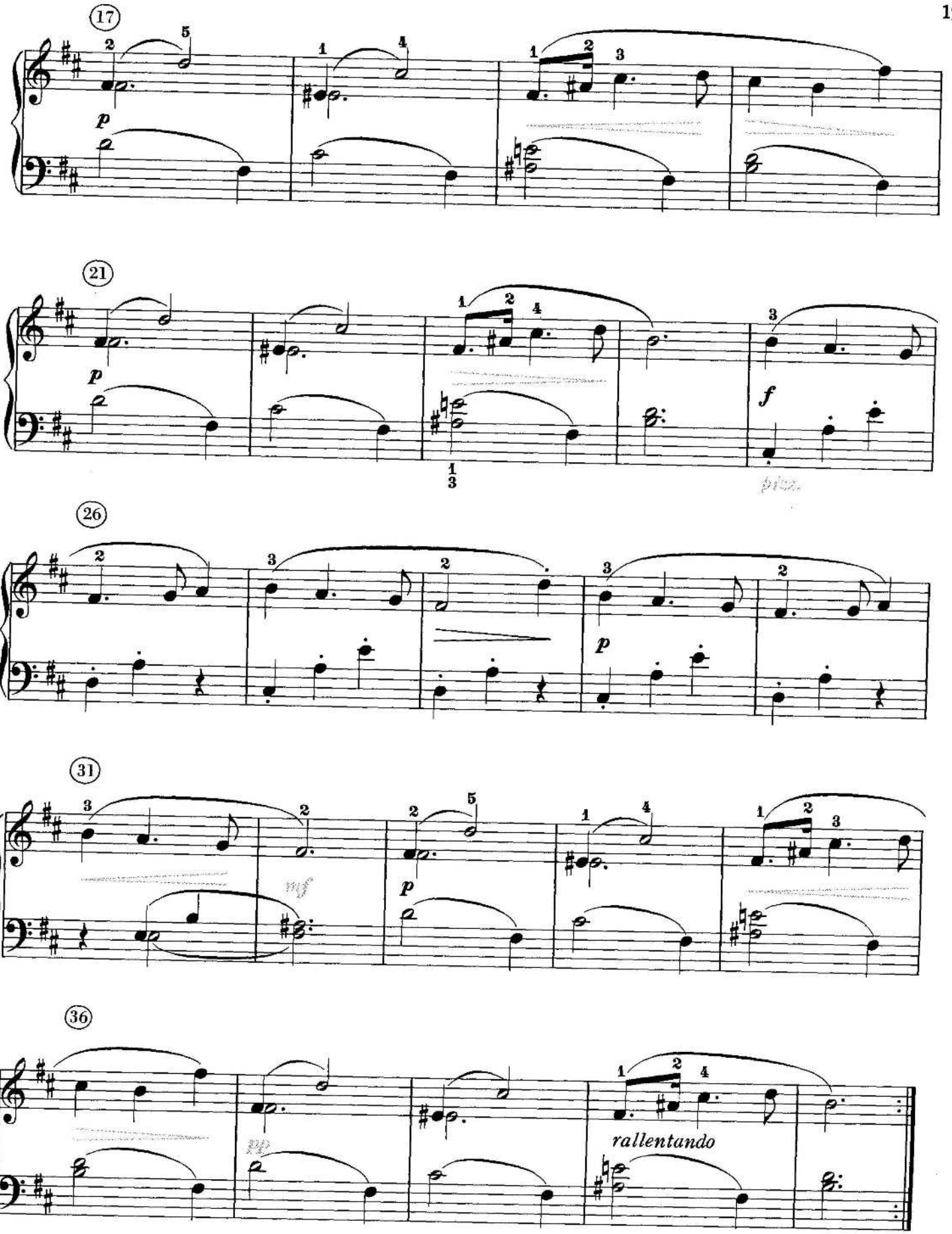
12. Etude



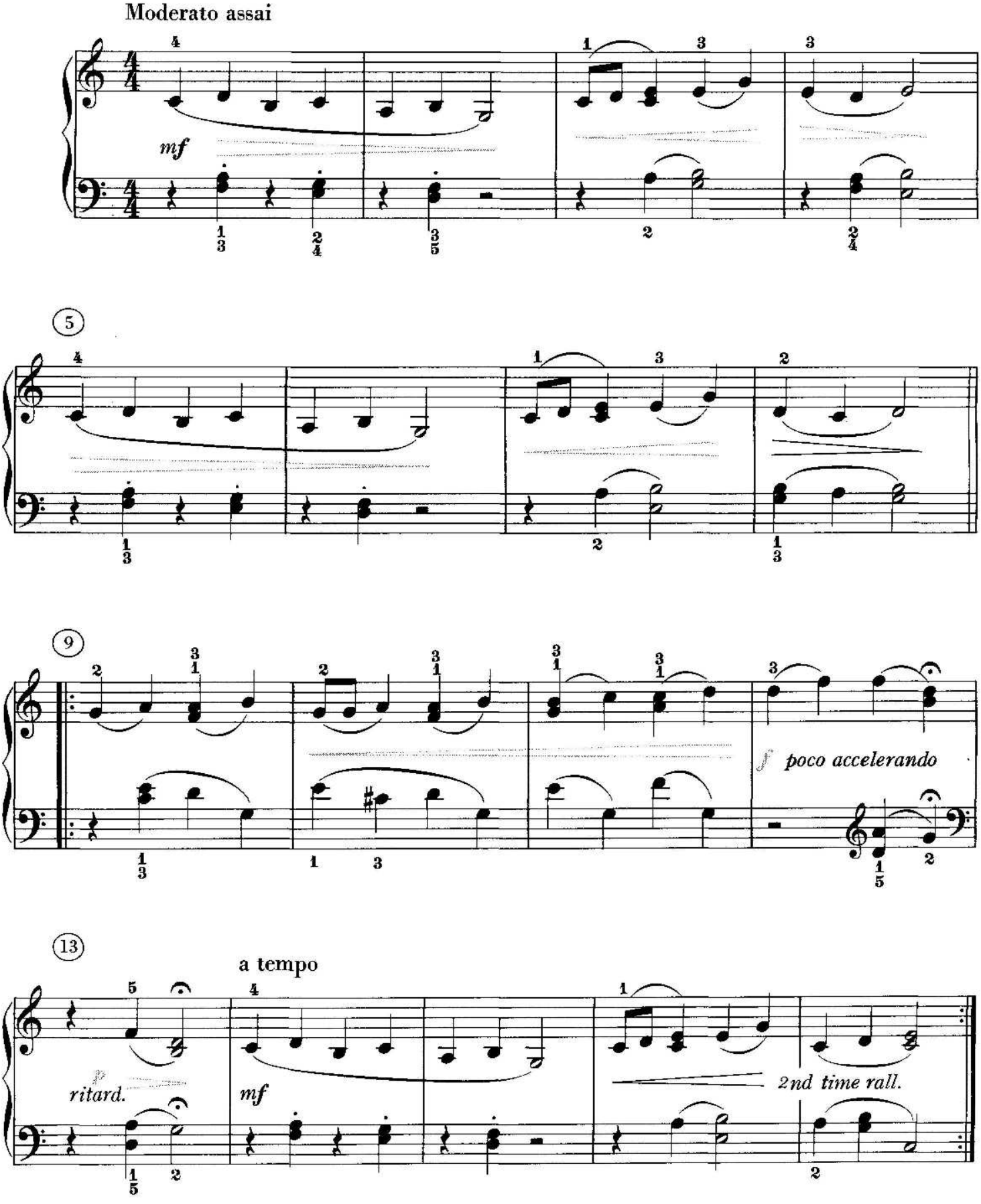
13. Festive Dance

Tempo di mazurka

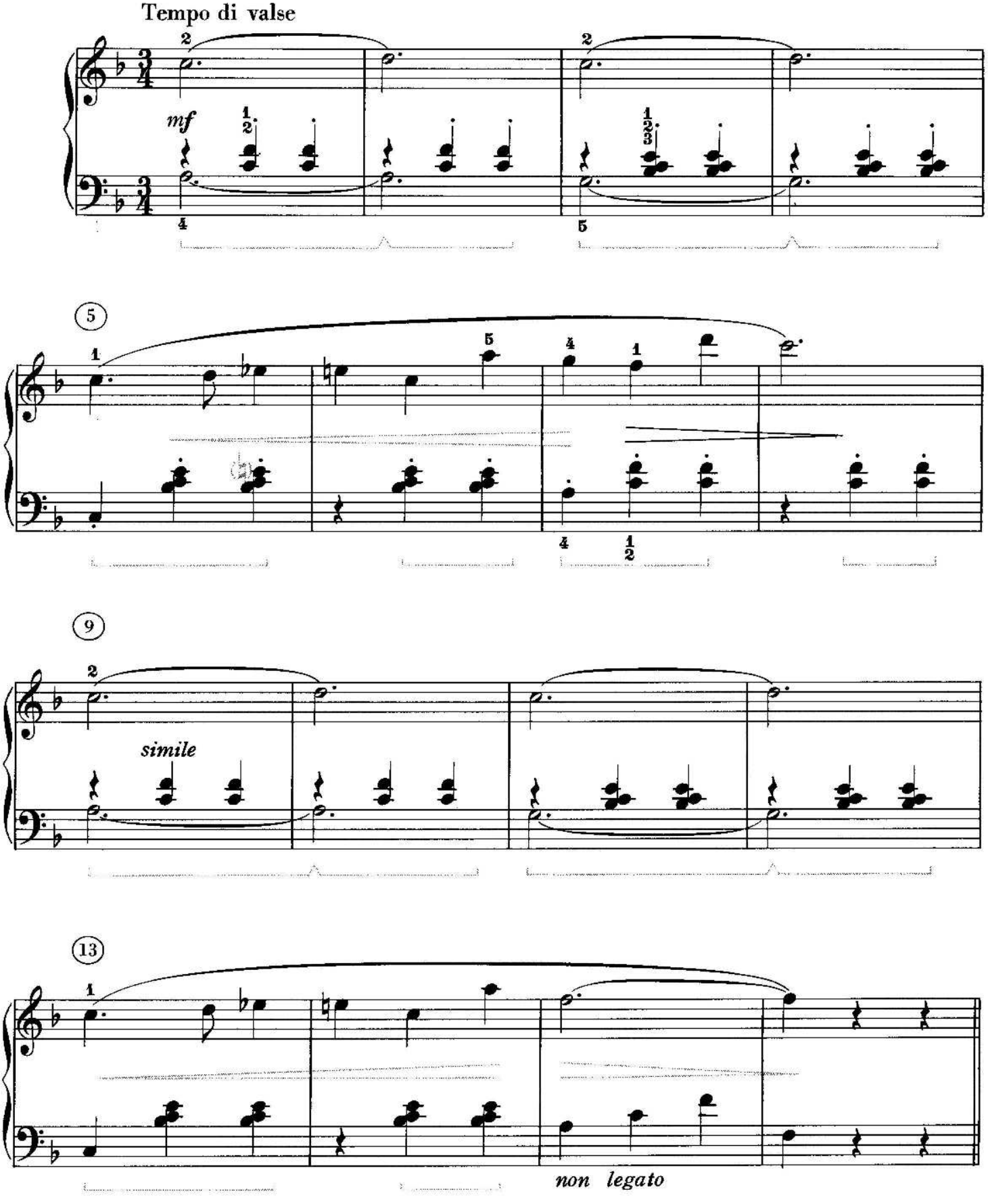


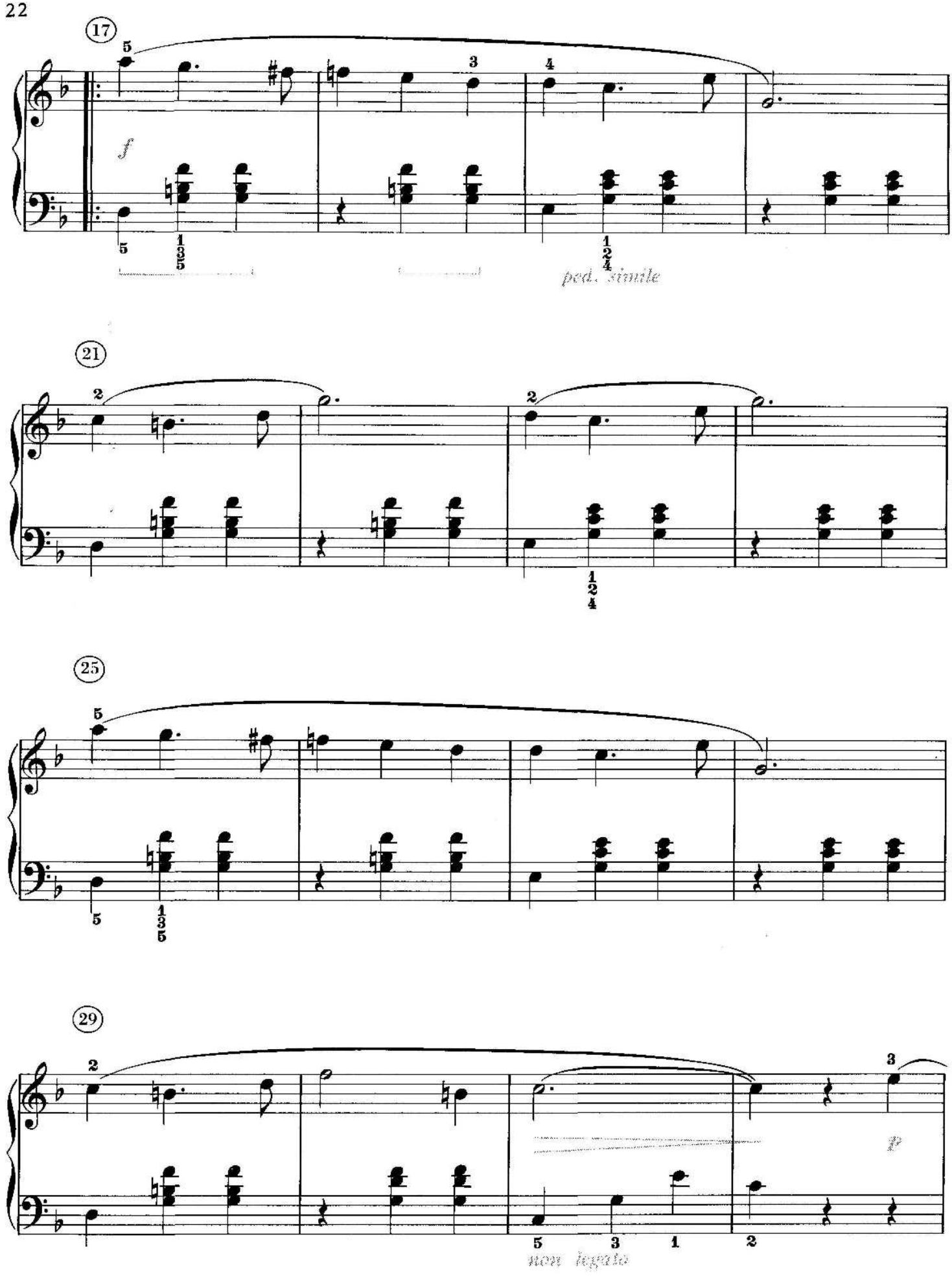

17
p
21
p
f
26
p
31
mf
p
36
rallentando

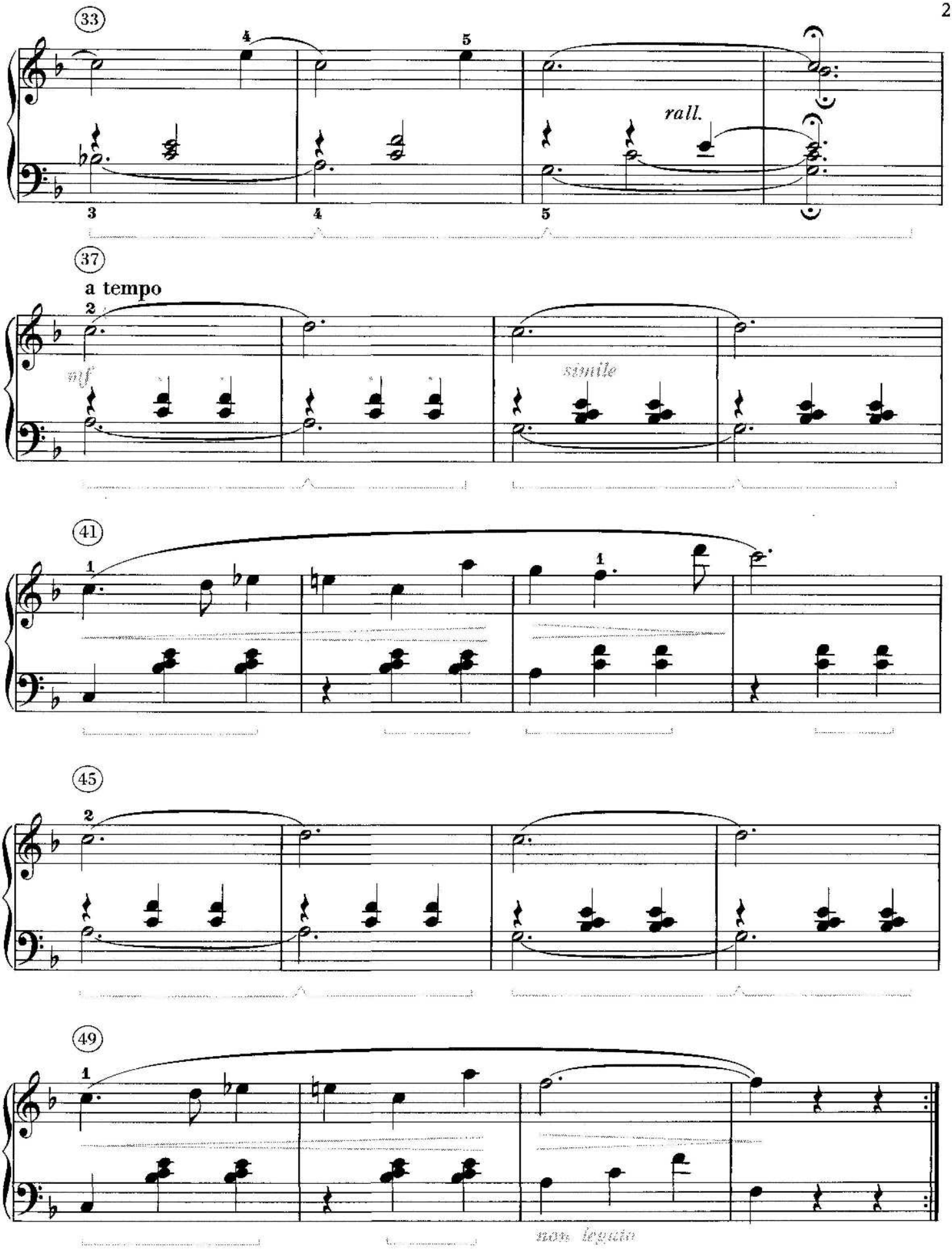
14. A Lingering Song



15. Waltz




17
f
ped. simile
21
25
29
p
non legato


33
rall.
37
a tempo
mf
simile
41
45
49
non legato